

November 25, 2018

Last Sunday in Ordinary Time

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

Solemnity



The Kingship of Jesus

When a witness is being sworn in at court, the bailiff asks, "Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?" Telling the truth can be difficult. For some the truth is worth dying for. In today's Gospel, Jesus puts an end to the interrogation of Pontius Pilate. Jesus says he was born to speak the truth. "Whoever belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate asks him, "What is truth?" We must ask ourselves the same question. Do you know the truth? Is Jesus the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth for you?



The Flowers on the altar this weekend are donated by Staci & Scott MacDonald in thanksgiving to God on the occasion of their 1st Wedding Anniversary.

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, December 1
4:30 p.m. Annie & C.A. (Junior) Griggs
Sunday, December 2
8:00 a.m. Richard O'Brien

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy

Next weekend is *The First Sunday of Advent*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 25
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2
Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

St. Anne's K.J.Z.T. #4 Christmas Party and short meeting Sunday, December 9, 2 p.m. Members and their families are invited to attend.

2018 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2018 Assessment \$7,761.00
Contributions So Far \$ 5,538.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed \$ 2,223.00

We thank the following for their recent contributions:

Georgia Cerny
Melvin Hutzler
Deloris Smolik
Kathleen & Martin Svatek
Pat Masek
Betty Patalik
Ellene Vrazel

Our quote is to be paid no later than the end of the year.
Do please consider making a donation.

**St. Mary's Restoration Endowment Fund
Maintaining & Preserving Maticka Praha**



We thank the following for their recent contribution:

Harry Angell - \$20
Anonymous Donor - \$20
Jason Ryan, Houston, TX - \$100
Jonathan Vidola, San Antonio, TX - \$100
In Memory of Stazy Hajek
Pat Masek - \$20
Robin & Gary Cerny - \$100

To make a tax deductible donation towards *St. Mary's Restoration Endowment Fund Maintaining & Preserving Maticka Praha* contact Fr. Gabriel at 361-596-4674.

ST. MARY'S MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Mary Ann Lev: Mary & Charlie Bartos

Donations to St. Mary's

We thank St. Anne's K.J.Z.T. #4 for their recent donation of \$500. Thank you for all you do for the church and for the community.

We thank Annette & Ray Novak from East Bernard for their recent donation. They won the first prize in the Church Picnic Raffle and donated \$120 back to Praha Church in thanksgiving to the people of Praha and the Feast of the Blessed Mother.

Altar Society Bake Sale Update: Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Altar Society Bake Sale. We sold out of everything by 9:45 a.m. and made over \$900. A special thank you to Flatonia National Bank who let us use their parking lot for the sale.

The Altar Society provides supplies for the Church such as altar bread and wine, pay for cleaning of the Church and other Altar related items. Thank you for your support.

Pray for the repose of the soul of
Mary Ann Lev
and for the comfort of her loved ones.
May she rest in peace.



REFLECTION

The Kingship of Christ

In addition to providing a setting in history for the saving work of Jesus, today's gospel passage uses the figure of Pilate and the exchanges between him and Jesus to tell us who Jesus is.

- that Jesus is indeed a King.
- that his reign and authority are divine in origin.
- that those who should have recognized the truth about Jesus but refused to do so are culpable.

As the dialogue between Jesus and Pilate unfolds, Jesus tacitly accepts the title of King but the true significance of his Kingship and Kingdom are made clear.

Jesus and the Kingdom are divine in origin. This Kingdom is to be established not by human devising but by God alone and through the one who God has sent, Jesus.

The presence of Jesus in the world extends to all peoples the challenge of accepting the truth. Those who open themselves to the truth and respond to its demands will recognize the presence of God in the person and mission of Jesus.

The recognition of that presence is an experience of the Kingdom that has begun in Jesus and will forever continue in him until the end of time.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



November 26 – Delia Moeller
November 30 – Chandler Moeller

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



November 27 – Patricia & Elmer Michna

Czech Advent/Christmas Concert Next Sunday At 2:00 p.m.



Dr. Thomas Sovik, Professor of Music Theory in the College of Music at the University of North Texas, and his students will perform *Giovanni Pergolesi Stabat Mater*. Following will be a Christmas sermon

in Czech. The event will end with the singing of traditional Czech Christmas songs and a social reception in the School. This event is being sponsored by the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas in partnership with the College of Music at the University of North Texas.

* *There is no charge to attend the Concert. A free-will offering will be taken up at the Concert for the St. Mary's, Praha Church Restoration Fund.*

King of the Universe

The solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe brings us to the end of the liturgical year (the Church's calendar) and always replaces the Thirty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

This feast was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 in response to the rise of totalitarianism and what he saw as an "Anything Goes" world. The feast refocuses our attention on Jesus Christ's reign over the human race and human heart. Seven hundred years before Jesus' birth, the Prophet Micah announced his coming. The Magi came in search of a King. The people hailed him as King when he entered Jerusalem. Caiaphas and Pontius Pilate ask if he was the King of the Jews, and his cross was raised with a sign declaring him King of the Jews.

Christ himself refused the title of King, yet we acclaim him as King in this feast. The feast emphasizes God's ultimate forgiveness as well as Christ's return at the end of time, [his second coming] and his final sovereignty over all creation. This last theme is continued during the Season of Advent.

Calling Christ our King assumes that his Kingdom is unlike any other the earth has ever seen. He has no military might, passes no laws, imposes no taxes, and does not lord it over the subjects of his Kingdom. He rules by grace, and love and his reign extends to the farthest reaches of the universe. We belong to him. His Kingdom will have no end.

The Enthronement of Christ

The Feast of Christ the King is placed at the conclusion of the Liturgical Year because it celebrates the realization of all of our theology. It is not only the goal toward which our Sunday meditations have been taking us, Christ's enthronement is the omega point toward which all of history has been moving. On a broader scale it is the climax of all of creation as contained in the major myths. There we read that after the primordial battle has been won, the triumphant warrior is enthroned above the heavens. The feast celebrates that enthronement.

Christ's Kingdom is a kingdom of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice and love and peace. We need not stand at a distance from him, afraid to approach because of our human vulnerability. He is the one who loved us so much that he handed himself over to suffering and death so that we might live. He has already brought us to birth in this kingdom through baptism, and he has taught us how to live in it, although we live in it only by faith. Today we look to that time when his glory will be revealed, when we will be gathered into the embrace of God, there to sing praise to that glory forever.

– Dianne Bergant

Advent/Christmas Activities

Dec. 2 – Czech Advent/Christmas Concert, 2 p.m.
Dec. 9 – K.J.Z.T. Christmas Party, 2 p.m.
Dec. 10 – Parish Advent Confessions, 5:30 p.m., Moulton
Dec. 13 – Parish Advent Confessions, 5:00 p.m.-?, Praha